

2023 Major Review of Australian Standard Classification of Languages (ASCL)

QUESTIONNAIRE

1. What is your name? Click or tap here to enter text.

IMPORTANT: Any personal information will be kept strictly confidential for ABS use only in accordance with the [Privacy at the ABS | Australian Bureau of Statistics](#)

2. Please ensure that you include contact details in your submission. By providing contact information, you agree that the ABS can contact you to ask any follow-up questions, if required.

- a. What is your email address? Click or tap here to enter text.
- b. What is your contact number? (optional): Click or tap here to enter text.
- c. If you are submitting this form on behalf of an organisation, what is your organisation? Click or tap here to enter text.

3. Which state or territory do you live in?

- ☐ ACT
- ☐ NSW
- ☐ NT
- ☐ QLD
- ☐ SA
- ☐ TAS
- ☐ VIC
- ☐ WA
- ☐ Outside Australia (please specify)

4. How did you find out about the 2023 review of ASCL?

- ☐ Direct approach from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS)
- ☐ Direct approach from another government agency
- ☐ The ABS website
- ☐ Stakeholder network
- ☐ Personal networks
- ☐ Other (please specify)

5. Is there a Language that is currently not identified at the 4-digit level of the [ASCL](#) that should be included in the classification?

In the ASCL, Languages are the most detailed level of the classification and have a 4-digit code.

For Languages not currently identified, please provide your suggestions for the following:

- a) Title of the Language [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
- b) Language origins (ie Who is it spoken, written or signed by? Known relationship to other Language groups?) [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
- c) Is the Language considered a separate Language, a recognised Language dialect or is it considered either a Pidgin or Creole? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
- d) Approximate number of people who might use this Language in Australia? [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

6. Please list any Languages that are not accurately represented in the [ASCL](#). Include details of why the representation is not accurate (ie are they aligned to the correct Broad Group or Narrow Group in the classification? Does the classification reflect the correct spelling of the Language title?)

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

7. In the ASCL, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages are represented in Broad Group 8, *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages*. Some of these groups have both 2 and 3-digit Narrow Groups.

- a) Do you use the 3-digit Narrow Groups and for what purpose (e.g. for data analysis)?

Please provide details:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

- b) Do the 3-digit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Narrow Groupings still provide meaningful and useful representation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Languages?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If 'Yes' please provide details:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

- c) What impact would there be to you/your organisation if the 3-digit Narrow Groups were removed from the classification structure? Please note: The 4-digit Language groups currently listed under the 3-digit Narrow Groups

would remain in the ASCL, but they would be grouped under the 2-digit Narrow Group structure.

Please provide details:

Click or tap here to enter text.

- 8.** Currently the classification includes sign languages as a Narrow Group (97) within the Broad Group 9 *Other Languages*.

There are broadly two main types of sign languages: the first are those that are languages in their own right, with distinct grammar and vocabulary, compared with spoken languages (e.g. sign languages such as Auslan). The second are those that directly represent a spoken language (e.g. signed English), broadly referred to as signed languages.

- a. Are there any sign languages currently missing from the ASCL? Click or tap here to enter text.
- b. Is there a need to include signed languages in the ASCL? Click or tap here to enter text.

- 9.** Do you use ABS language data?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If 'Yes', please provide the following:

- a) How do you currently use the data (for example, is the data used for any policy analysis, development or reporting purpose)? Please provide a description of how this data is used.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- b) Do you find there are limitations when using the data? If so, what are the limitations?

Click or tap here to enter text.

- c) Is there any additional analysis or reporting that you would like to do using language data? Please provide a description.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- 10.** Considering the initial areas proposed as in-scope of this ASCL review, what areas do you consider to be the high priority issues for this review and why?

Click or tap here to enter text.

- 11.** Are there any other key areas of concern that should be included in the ASCL review? If so, please provide further details and reasons for inclusion.

Click or tap here to enter text.

- 12.** Are there any other comments you would like to provide regarding this review?

Click or tap here to enter text.

If you have any questions about this consultation process, please email standards@abs.gov.au